

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a molecular sieve adsorbent for selective adsorption of oxygen from air, the process comprising
  - (i) exchanging zeolite X with water-soluble salt of a rare earth metal selected from the group consisting of cerium, europium, gadolinium and any mixture thereof;
  - (ii) filtering the mixture, washing the powder or pellet with hot distilled water ~~and~~ until it is free from anions to obtain an exchanged zeolite;
  - (iii) drying the exchanged zeolite;
  - (iv) and activating the exchanged zeolite,and wherein the process does not involve the use of clays and organic binders.
2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the zeolite X is used in powder form has 100% crystallinity or pellet form.
3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the Na cations of zeolite are exchanged with salts of the rare earth metals selected from chloride, nitrate and acetate.
4. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cation exchange is carried at a temperature in the range of 30°C to 90°C for a period in the range of 4 to 8 hours.
5. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cation exchange is carried out at a cation concentration in the range of 0.01 to 0.1 M solution.
6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the exchanged zeolite is dried in a temperature range of 20°C to 80°C in air or under vacuum.

7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the exchanged zeolite is activated at the temperature range of 350 to 450°C for a period in the range of 3-6 hours followed by cooling under inert or vacuum.

8. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the adsorbent does not contain any lithium, potassium or calcium ions.